Changes in Tax Evasion Acts

995. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking in terms of changing concerned Acts, which deal with tax evasions, suitably so that multinational companies which are accused of evading tax to the tune of over Rs. 2100 crore since 1997 can be forced to pay the tax first;

(b) if so, details of the move; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not doing so specially because these units are evading tax dues since long time and something has got to be done soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) Sir, there is no proposal to change the Acts in order to collect the tax arrears as there are already a number of provisions under the concerned Acts for collection and recovery of the tax arrears.

Rapid Action Cell for refund of Income Tax

†996. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to set up "Rapid Action Cell" in all the major cities including Delhi is under Government's consideration in order to provide timely refund of income-tax to income tax payees and resolving their problem at the earliest;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) It has been decided, as part of a strategy to improve the functioning of the Income Tax Department, to form a special cell to work as the focal point for bringing to the Department's notice urgent and serious

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

problems of individual and corporate tax payers. It has been decided to introduce this scheme in Delhi from 1.8.2000, and it will be extended to other stations in due course. The cell has been designated as "HELPLINE INCOME-TAX" and will be under the supervision of a Commissioner of Income tax.

Insurance Scheme for Protection of Investors from Fake Companies

†997. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce an insurance scheme to protect the investors from fake companies;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the above scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Himachal Pradesh Public Money Bill, 1996

998. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested the Central Government to make suitable provisions in the Himachal Pradesh Public Money Bill, 1996 to enable the State Government to make pending recoveries expenditiously as arrears of land revenues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.